

Depressed Classes' League Conference, Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh), on the 29th December, 1968 referred to the inadequacies of the Hindu social order in which people belonging to the Scheduled Castes were kept out of the main stream of social life. He said that advantage was being taken of this situation by proselytizing agencies for converting them to their faiths on considerations other than religious convictions. No reflection on Christianity or Christians was intended.

(b) and (c). Under the provisions of article 25 (1) of the Constitution all persons are, subject to public order, morality and health, equally entitled to freedom of conscience and right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion. The question of Government taking steps to check conversions does not, therefore, arise.

Paradeep Port

742. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft of Paradeep Port has been restored to 42 feet;

(b) whether the proposal to undertake contract dredging and also to employ a cutter suction dredger for effecting further improvement in the draft has been finally considered and decision taken; and

(c) if so, when this is proposed to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) to (c). During the monsoon period of 1968 the draft at Paradip Port, which was hitherto 34 ft., fell down to 28 ft. Certain immediate remedial measures were taken and a draft of 35 ft. has been restored at the port from 30.11.1968. A contract has been entered into by Paradip Port Trust with a Japanese firm for dredging the sand traps

near the tip of the southern Breakwater to arrest littoral drift, for widening the turning circle from 1100 ft. to 1725 ft. diameter etc. This firm's dredger is expected to reach the port towards the end of February, 1969 and would, commence work early in March, 1969. The work is expected to be completed in about 7 months.

A cutter suction dredger belonging to Visakhapatnam Port Trust has also been deployed at Paradip Port since 3.1.69 to remove the shoal at the entrance to the port.

General Cargo Berth at Paradeep Port

743. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:
SHRI B. K. DAS-
CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SRADHAKAR
SUPAKAR:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final decision has been taken in respect of building a general cargo berth at Paradeep Port; and

(b) is so, the time by which it will be built ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) and (b). The proposal is still under examination.

Rural Roads in Orissa

744. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government were requested to keep in view the recommendations of the Rural Roads Committee while formulating their Fourth Plan;